

Ajay Jain Profile

A Mechanical Engineer and a specialist Archaeology and Heritage Filmmaker and Researcher, Ajay has been awarded the coveted **Senior Fellowship** of the **Ministry of Culture, Government of India** and has been recognized by the Ministry as an **“Outstanding person in the field of art, culture, and heritage”**.

Ajay is known for his pioneering work on the **ancient water systems of the Jaigarh Fort in Rajasthan**, India, where he harnessed remote sensing, toponomastics, climate science, and hydrogeological studies to analyze the functioning and structure of the expansive water system of Jaigarh, built centuries ago.

A B.E. (Mechanical Engineering) and M.B.A. (Finance) by qualification, he has been undertaking **research and investigating engineering values in our ancient heritage and culture**: Ajay’s works explore the role of science and technology in understanding the structural, technological and functional aspects of our rich historic heritage, architecture, arts and monuments. He has been using modern tools and techniques including mechanical engineering and hydraulics principles, remote sensing, and aerial imagery analysis, to name a few.

Ajay is the **C.E.O. & founding member** of **Sukhnidhey Films**, a multi-award-winning multimedia production organization empanelled with the **Broadcasting Corporation of India- Prasar Bharti (Doordarshan)** that produces films & TV Shows on *heritage, archaeology, history, arts and culture* for Indian National Television and undertakes brand storytelling for **FORTUNE 500** companies.

Sukhnidhey Films are rated as **the only 'Outstanding' rated filmmakers in the country as recognized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India**; their works have been selected for ***showcasing Indian heritage internationally*** in their Festivals of India abroad.

As a professional filmmaker-photographer-explorer, Ajay has been **documenting India's rich heritage, history, archaeology, arts and culture** which form the crowning glory of the Indian civilization. His **120+ films and TV shows** have been **recognized as some of the best** on Indian Heritage, Arts & Culture and have been **broadcast on the Science Channel, the Discovery Channel, and Indian National TV — Doordarshan**.

Ajay has been closely working with the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**- (*India's premiere archaeology organization* under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India) **filming-documenting, researching, and studying the ancient monuments and structures— the scientific & technological** aspects of ancient forts,

monuments, stepwells and temples and the role these play in helping conserve heritage.

His films have been **screened and awarded** at the **World's premier International Film Festivals including those in Hollywood, Italy, the Americas, and Europe**. The works of Sukhnidhey Films have been **recognized by UNESCO**. Ajay's films have been screened at the **42nd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee-2018** in Manama, Bahrain as a part of the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum.

Ajay has been functioning, since 2009, as the **director and cinematographer**—filming, editing and directing TV shows & films **broadcast on the Science channel, the Discovery channel, and Indian National Television, Doordarshan** (the world's largest TV network), in prime time which have been highly popular, being appreciated for their uniqueness and rich content, helping conserve our world's rich historic, cultural & natural heritage by spreading mass awareness. Ajay has **more than 120+ TV Show episodes and films to his credit**.

His works have been recognized and appreciated by the **Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)**, New Delhi which commissioned Ajay and his organization to conduct **heritage awareness campaigns in schools** across the country to **sensitize the youth, especially school children at the grassroots level**.

The **Department of Tourism, Art & Culture** appreciated the films & works of Sukhnidhey Films on Indian history, heritage & culture and also their **Dharohar Heritage Film Festival** that aims to help create awareness about our heritage amongst school children & students.

His research documentaries on the ancient Indian monuments & archaeological sites have been a part of the **official archives of the National Monuments Authority (NMA) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.

Ajay's films have been a part of the **academic curriculum of prestigious National & International universities and schools** (the American Institute of Indian Studies — New York State Independent College Consortium for Study in India, Government Schools & Colleges, etc), used as tools in teaching, research and study on Indian heritage-culture.

Directed and filmed the Sukhnidhey Films TV Show for Doordarshan National television, "**Bharat Darshan: Exploring the Unexplored**", which **completed the telecast of its 52 episodes** with the **highest TRP ratings in its category; extremely popular with the audiences**.

The show conducted **frontline research on the most unexplored and forgotten places in India** and brought them before viewers in a unique, first-person narrative style. The show has, **for the very first time**, documented some of the **most ancient archaeological sites in the country, the forgotten temples, wildlife parks & reserves** which had long been forgotten by the masses, bringing them back their lost glory.

Directed and filmed 52 episodes of the Sukhnidhey Films TV Show for Doordarshan, “**Jambudweep: A Journey through Incredible India**”; a unique **primetime travel show** extremely popular across the country **owing to its unique theme, engaging first-person narrative script, subjective cinematography and storytelling approach.**

His *latest* TV Show, “**Highway: On the Road**” on Indian National Television **has been a phenomenal hit worldwide** being extremely popular on television & online — within hours of posting, the show **promo went viral online** and **crossed over a Million views** in a few days of the show's launch.

Films awarded “**World Class Quality in Film Production Award-2013**” by Qualcomm Inc.

Besides **films on social causes & issues** and **travel/heritage/archaeo-films**, Sukhnidhey Films has been **filming showreels & documentaries** for NGOs and organizations working for social causes and issues, that help make a difference to our world.

His film, '**Ranthambhor: The Untold Saga**'- which conducts **pioneering frontline archaeological research** on the **ancient Ranthambhor Fort** in India- a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the **Official Selection** at one of the **world's premiere archaeological film festivals**- the **Rassegna Internazionale del Cinema Archeologico-2016, Rovereto, Italy.**

Directed the film, '**A Call from the Past**'- **a unique experimental art film** that explores an artist's journey to self-discovery. The film was the **Official Selection** at the **Ekurhuleni International Film Festival-2016, South Africa** and the **IndieWise International Film Festival-2016.**

Filmed the documentary, “**The World is Traveling**” which was the **Official International Selection** in the **Getty Images Film Festival-2015.**

Ajay's documentary film, the first on relocated tiger behavior, "**Sariska: A Reserve Reborn**" was highly appreciated and was a part of Asia's largest green film festival, the **CMS Vatavaran Environment & Wildlife Film Festival-2011**.

His film "Something's Not Right in Sariska" was a direct entry nominated to the CMS Vatavaran Environment & Wildlife Film Festival-2022, comprising of a jury chaired by the eminent filmmaker Shyam Benegal.

Another wildlife documentary film that he directed, "**Tal Chappar: The Indian Savanna**" was nominated for the **National Award in the Cine Youth National Film Festival in India**. The film was screened in the final selections, and was **critically acclaimed and appreciated**. It portrayed the epic tale of the Great Indian grasslands of Tal Chappar in Rajasthan, home to the endangered black bucks.

His film on **Child Rights & Education**, "**The Potter: Shaping Lives**" has been **critically acclaimed** as the **Official Selection** in the **Roselle Park Loves Shorts! Film Festival, United States -2016**.

Ajay's film, "**Conquering Kedarnath: Hiking to the Heavens**", is the **last and the only comprehensive film on Kedarnath**- one of the holiest places for Hindus in the world. The film documents the land- its culture, treacherous trek & the numerous ancient archaeological sites as they were before the 2013 North Indian floods devastated the region beyond recognition. **The film was the Official Selection in the IndieWise International Film Festival-2016**.

An extremely **passionate traveler**, Ajay loves ***driving across the length and breadth of India***. He has undertaken expeditions from **Kashmir to Kanya Kumari**, driving over the world's highest motorable passes and roads in Ladakh region. He has been **filming his journeys, cultures and the rich heritage of India's most unexplored places** which have largely remained **forgotten since the centuries**.

His **articles and documentaries** have been **virally popular online — well received on popular public viewership platforms on the internet** (YouTube, Steemit, Facebook, etc).

Shows and films appreciated for their **unique subjective treatment**; being shot with subjective **camera techniques**, having **interesting contemporary scripts** and narratives that **directly connect with the audience**, so that they **experience** the visuals in **first-person**, being active viewers instead of passive, dull viewing.

Ajay has also been making **corporate films, advertisement films, and promos** for well-known companies, brands, and educational institutions.